

JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE

1952-2002



JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE

*Recognizing the
commitment & vision
of leaders of the College
over the past 50 years*

*Sunday, January 12
2:00 p.m.
Bean - Brown Theatre*



SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

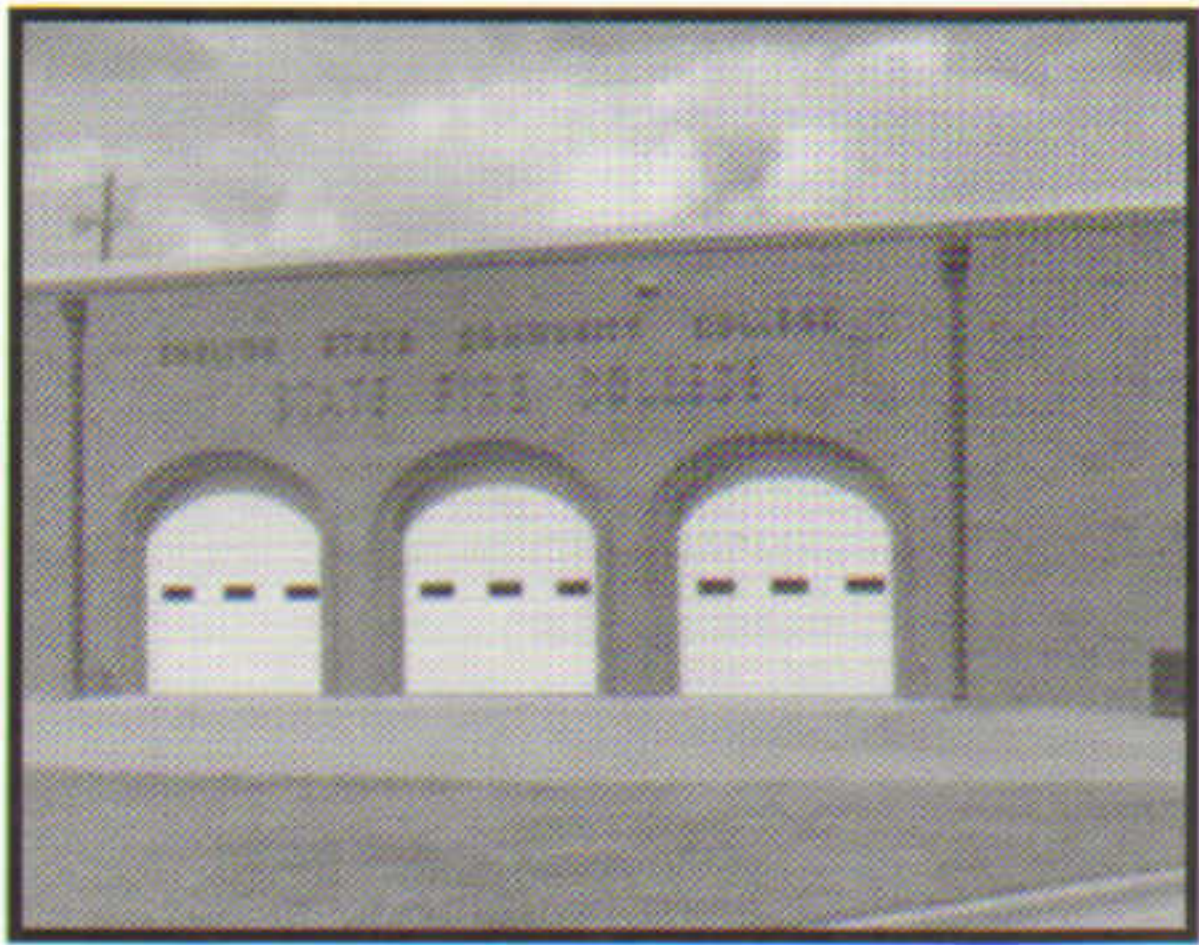
JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE



15TH STREET



SKYLAND BOULEVARD



FIRE COLLEGE



C. A. FREDD



MARTIN CAMPUS
present



FIRE COLLEGE
present

SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE

Welcome &
Introduction of Special Guests
Rick Rogers

Presentation of Leaders & Visionaries
Tommy Hester

Journey of Excellence Video Presentation

Closing Remarks
Rick Rogers

Reception to Follow in Atrium

SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



GEORGE WALLACE
FORMER GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA

Shelton State Community College's history began May 6, 1947, the first day of the regular session of the Alabama legislature. On this date the late Governor George C. Wallace, who was then a first-term representative from Barbour County, introduced a bill calling for the "establishment, maintenance, and operation" of a system of regional trade schools for the state.

Wallace had been concerned for several months about the future of the World War II veterans who were returning home. Wallace believed the bill establishing these new trade schools was part of the government's promise to veterans to provide them "vocational and rehabilitation training under the G.I. Bill of Rights." In Alabama these promises had not been fulfilled because of the lack of "adequate and properly located facilities." Some Wallace biographers believe the young legislator was motivated to introduce the trade school legislation from a keen sense of North-South economic rivalry. As Wallace explained, "we are going to have to give our rural boys training in some type of work to prevent a labor surplus, and this is about a good a method as I know."

The idea of publicly supported trade schools may have been both novel for the time and costly. However, Wallace had the support of Governor Folsom, key legislators and education officials.

The first trade school bill that passed the House of Representatives authorized a "two per cent tax on sales of spirituous or vinous liquors" to finance the new schools. However, when the bill reached the Senate, the version of the bill was changed. The liquor tax was removed. The new system of trade schools would instead be funded by an appropriation from the Alabama Special Education Trust Fund Surplus Account of \$750,000.00 for each of the next four fiscal years. On the final day of the 1947 legislative session, the bill finally passed, without a dissenting vote.



J. P. SHELTON
ALABAMA LEGISLATURE 1945-1954

J.P. Shelton and A.K. (Temo) Callahan, along with the Chamber of Commerce and other community leaders, worked to make Tuscaloosa the home of one of the new trade schools. Tuscaloosa had not been chosen as one of the first two sites.

Shelton and Callahan's job was to persuade members of the State Board to locate one of these schools in Tuscaloosa. The two men were strong supporters of Governor Folsom's administration, and they even traveled to Montgomery asking for his help.

The board met in January 1950 to select the sites of the third and fourth trade schools. No decision was made that day. When the board met on September 29, a delegation from Tuscaloosa, headed by Shelton, was in attendance. At the end of the day, the board voted to choose Tuscaloosa as the site for the third regional trade school.

Shelton, an attorney and populist, was elected to the Alabama legislature in 1945. Described as a large man who liked to sing, Shelton's deep bass voice was often heard leading congregations in "Amazing Grace" at local churches. Shelton once passed a bill in the legislature without going to the microphone. In fact, it is said it was passed without Shelton ever getting out of his chair.

Shelton published a booklet of favorite verses and sayings entitled **SHELTON SAYS**. To a verse by Rudyard Kipling, Shelton adds, "In my judgment no greater counsel was ever written that that condensed in the following lines."

*"If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue
Or walk with Kings nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but not too much."*

Shelton died in 1954. Callahan introduced a resolution in the legislature lamenting Shelton's death and naming the new trade school in his honor.



A. K. (TEMO) CALLAHAN
ALABAMA LEGISLATURE 1931-1966

Born in 1904, A.K. (Temo) Callahan was raised in Holt, Alabama, as one of 13 children. Graduating from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1926, he practiced law for 72 years, serving in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1931 until 1966.

In the legislature, he was a leader of the "Young Turks," a group of legislators who fought to modernize Alabama's state government. Callahan was a supporter of President Roosevelt's New Deal and a life-long Democrat. He believed that government should help ease the burden of ordinary individuals.

As a country fiddle player and outspoken wit, Callahan became well known locally as the moderator of "Fiddlers' Conventions," events held to raise money for impoverished, Depression-era schools. He established the Friday Night Jamboree at the Northport Community center, a showcase for country fiddlers, musicians and singers as well as a platform for local office seekers.

One of Callahan's closest colleagues in the legislature was J.P. Shelton. On learning that there would be trade schools built in the state, Callahan and Shelton were determined that one of these schools would be located in Tuscaloosa County. In 1950 the two men were given the challenge of persuading members of the State Board of Education to choose Tuscaloosa. Callahan and Shelton called on each member of the state board. Through tenacity and personality, they acquired promises from a majority of the board that they would vote to locate the new school in Tuscaloosa. By the end of the vote, they were successful. The new school would be built in Tuscaloosa.

Callahan died in 2001 at the age of 96. He drove his own car until 1994 and continued to practice law until 1998. He always had a funny story to tell, his amusing sayings and expressions conveyed his opinions and philosophy. Described as "Temoisms," these sayings made people laugh and think at the same time.



HAROLD IRVIN JAMES
PRESIDENT,
SHELTON STATE TRADE SCHOOL
1951-1976

H.I. "Jimmy" James was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1907, the youngest of six children. After his parents' death, he lived with his siblings until he settled in Birmingham, Alabama, where he graduated from Birmingham Southern College in 1932. James began his career in 1932 as a coach and teacher in the Sand Mountain area. From there he moved to Union Springs as a vocational education innovator. His leadership there led to a position in Gadsden as coordinator of trade and industrial education. In 1947 he was named assistant superintendent of city schools.

In 1950 the search for a director of Tuscaloosa's trade school began. Ten applicants interviewed for the position, and in 1951, the state board appointed James, who was completing his master's degree at Auburn University, the director of the school. At the same meeting the state board purchased land for the campus on what is now Veterans Memorial Parkway.

James and his family moved to Tuscaloosa in 1951. Convinced the trade school needed to become an integral part of the community, James became a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club. He and his family became active members of First Methodist Church.

Final inspection of the building took place in September 1953, and by October of that year, 83 students had enrolled. Many of these first students were World War II veterans, and the instructors and their students became very close. Enrollment grew to 330 students a year later. By the 1970's, more technical programs were added. James realized the advantages to becoming a "technical college" rather than a "trade school," and the name changed to Shelton State Technical College. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accredited the school. James retired in 1976.



VICTOR POOLE

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
1963-1994

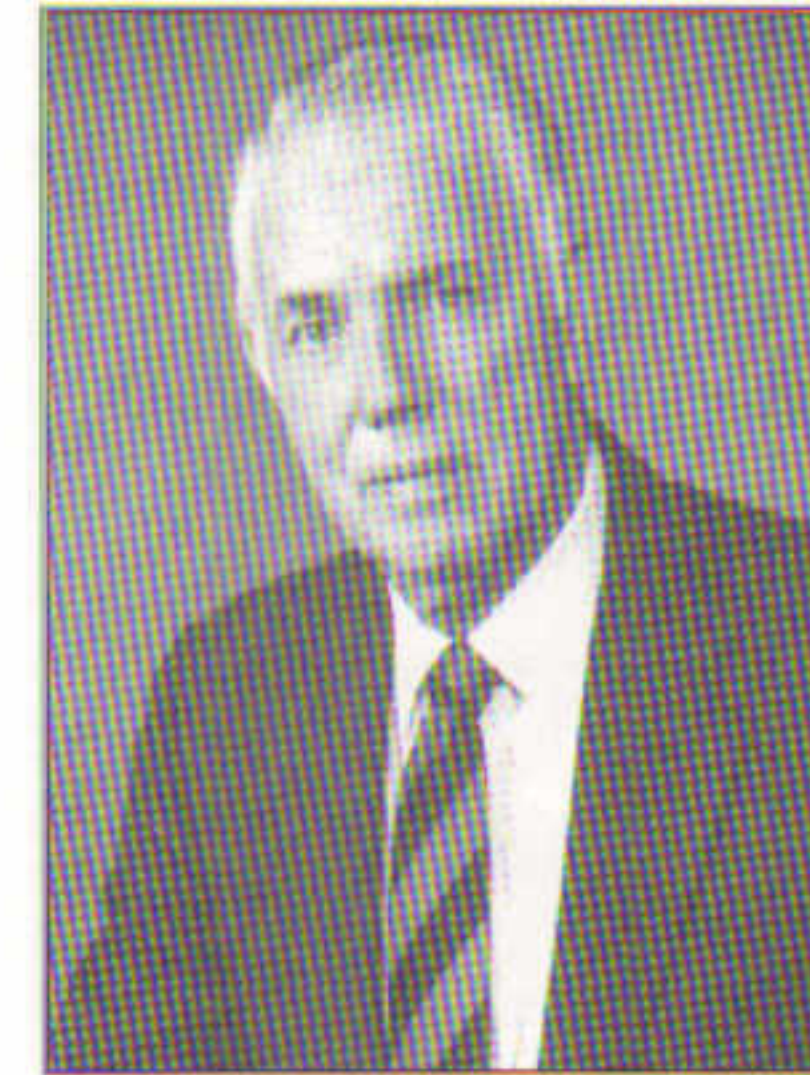
Victor Poole serves as a continuous link running through the history of Shelton State. A young banker from Moundville, Alabama, Poole was appointed by Governor Wallace in 1963 to serve on the Alabama State Board of Education. Wallace was embarking on an ambitious plan to create a system of two-year colleges in Alabama.

George Wallace, Jr., speaking on Poole's 71st birthday, talked about the early days of Alabama's two-year college system. "My father has been called the father of the two-year college system, but he could not have done what he did without Victor Poole. They (Wallace and Poole) took education to the children of the average working man and woman in Alabama. These situations gave our young people a chance and a choice for an education and better quality of life," Wallace said.

Poole served on the board until his retirement in 1995. For 32 years, Poole was involved in every facet of Shelton State. One of the greatest problems Poole faced was the acceptance by the community of the college.

Brewer State Junior College in Fayette located a branch in Tuscaloosa in 1974, and by 1979, the branch had over 1000 students and was larger than the Fayette campus. Recognizing the growth potential, Poole worked to merge this campus with Shelton State Technical College. In January 1979, the Tuscaloosa Branch of Brewer State Junior College and Shelton State Technical College were joined to form Shelton State Community College. The next few months posed difficult times. Shelton State might possibly not have survived this period without the support of Victor Poole.

Poole's greatest accomplishment was perhaps the merger between Shelton State Community College and C.A. Fredd State Technical College in 1993. Poole understood that the merger was a sensitive issue to the community, and that all of his political skills would be needed to make it a success. Today, Shelton State's C.A. Fredd Campus is an integral part of the college.



LEO SUMNER

PRESIDENT,
SHELTON STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1979-1988

Leo Sumner joined Shelton State Technical Institute in 1972 serving as dean of instruction until 1976 when he was named president of the institution, now named Shelton State Technical College.

When the Tuscaloosa branch of Brewer State and Shelton State Technical College were joined in 1979, the Alabama State Board of Education named Leo Sumner the president of the new institution. Shelton State grew under Sumner's leadership, and one of the major reasons for this growth was that from the first day the college opened, Shelton State Community College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Enrollment increased and new buildings were added during the 1970's and 1980's. As president, Sumner continued his efforts to expand the college's curriculum. A Fine Arts Division was added and the nursing programs were increased. Business and education created partnerships. IBM familiarization, word processing and medical secretary classes were offered. Rochester Products and Carmichael Chrysler joined forces with Shelton to offer new training classes.

Shelton State continued to look for new ways to serve the people of West Alabama. In the 1980's the Alabama Fire College was put under Shelton State. Also during that year the Alabama Canine Law Enforcement Officers Training Program was added. Lifelong learning became a popular concept during this era. New Options, a program for displaced homemakers, and Senior Studies, a program for senior citizens, were born. Shelton opened its wellness center to serve the health needs of its students and the community.

In December 1988, Sumner retired as president. The man who had led Shelton State through some of its most tumultuous years was leaving after 30 years of service.



C. A. FREDD SR.

PRESIDENT,
C. A. FREDD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
1965-1976

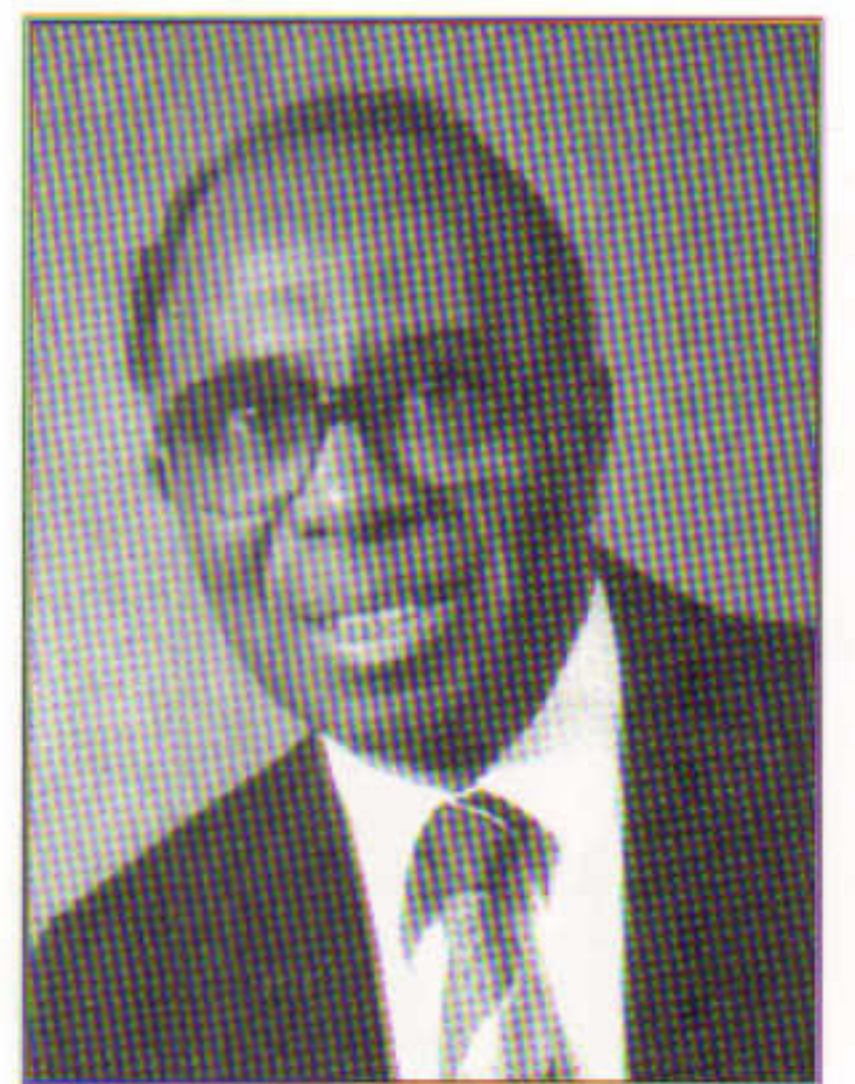
In 1963 Tuscaloosa Trade School was created by the state legislature as a vocational school designed to "train high school graduates and others from Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Fayette, Green, Hale, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, and Sumter counties who were 16 years of age and older." A 40-acre site was donated to the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority by the city and county governments of Tuscaloosa for the new school.

Construction on the building began January 11, 1965. Administrative personnel for Tuscaloosa Trade School began working at the school in June 1965 and classes began in October. C.A. Fredd was named the director of the new school. In 1974 the institution became the Tuscaloosa State Technical College and was authorized by the Alabama State Board of Education to grant the associate degree.

On C.A. Fredd's retirement in March 1976, the name of the college was changed to C.A. Fredd State Technical College in honor of the president and that day was designated "C.A. Fredd Day" in Tuscaloosa. Fredd was also honored with a banquet in his honor given by the faculty and staff of the college.

A native of Hale County, Fredd was involved with education in Alabama from his earliest years. He was the youngest of eight children and graduated from high school in 1928. Fredd went on to graduate in the first class from Alabama State College in 1931. He later earned a master's degree from Alabama State and did graduate work at Fisk College in Nashville, Tennessee, and Buffalo State University, Buffalo, New York.

In 1947 he became principal of the largest school in his home county, Hale County Training School. After 18 years in that position, he was named the director of the new Tuscaloosa State Trade School. Under his leadership the college received accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December 1973.



I. W. MITCHELL

PRESIDENT,
C. A. FREDD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
1976-1982

Although Congress passed legislation in 1963 doing away with racial discrimination, Alabama schools still operated under a "separate but equal" provision through the mid-1970s. I.W. Mitchell worked with C.A. Fredd to develop the curriculum for Fredd State during the "separate but equal" years but emphasizes today that few racial problems occurred during this time.

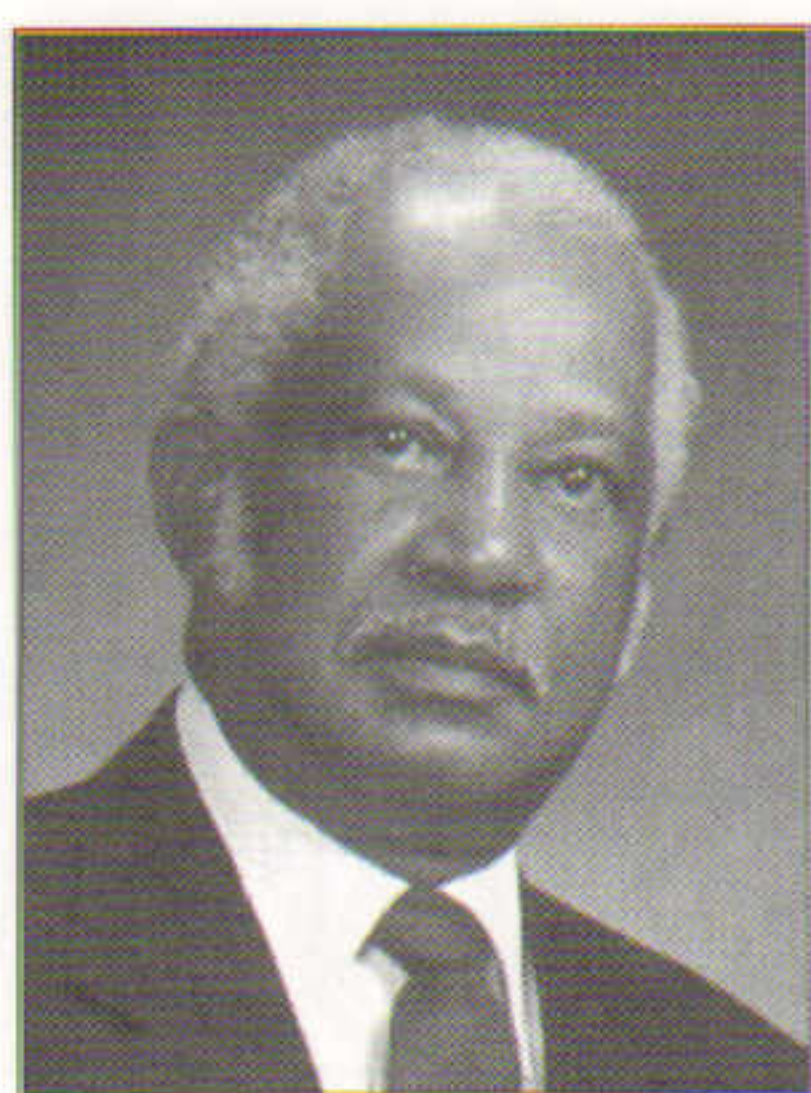
Both men worked closely with H.I. James, who was then president of Shelton State. Acting under a court order and through the State Board of Education, Fredd, Mitchell, and James were responsible for deciding which courses Fredd would offer and which would be taught at Shelton since the same programs could not be offered at both technical schools at the same time.

Mitchell became president of C.A. Fredd State Technical College in 1976. However, his involvement with the college and vocational education began many years prior to that date. Already working for the state department of education, Mitchell was transferred to Tuscaloosa State Trade School when it opened in 1963.

When Mitchell assumed the reigns of president in 1976, the Fredd Campus consisted of an administrative building and two shop buildings. During Mitchell's tenure as president, additional buildings and programs were added, doubling the size of the school.

Mitchell believes his greatest accomplishment as president was preparing Fredd students for employment. Even today, students who were trained at Fredd are still in the workforce. B.F. Goodrich was a major employer of Fredd students, according to Mitchell. The first African-American secretary hired at Goodrich was a graduate of C.A. Fredd. The employment rate for Fredd students during this time period ranged from 65 - 75%.

In 1982 Mitchell retired as president of Fredd. Today he still lives in Tuscaloosa.



NORMAN CEPHUS

PRESIDENT,
C. A. FREDD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
1982-1990

A native of Hale County, Norman Cephus was named president of C.A. Fredd State Technical College in 1982 following the retirement of I.W. Mitchell. Before assuming the presidency, Cephus served as dean of instruction for the college under Mitchell.

While in school, Cephus lived with family members in Tuscaloosa and was educated in the city school system. From 1944 - 1946 Cephus served in the United States armed forces during World War II. With the end of war, Cephus returned to Alabama where he was employed for 21 years by the Moundville school system.

Cephus was always interested in vocational education. When a dean's position opened at Fredd State during the 1960's, Cephus applied for the job. A congenial person, Cephus oversaw expansion of the college while at Fredd with several new buildings being added. During this period, Fredd State and Shelton State continued to work under a court order that mandated that the two schools divide their programs so that no duplication of programs existed.

One of the most important things that happened during Cephus' presidency was the awarding of the school's first Title III grant. This federal grant enabled Fredd State to accomplish more of the school's long-range goals. Also, during this time, Fredd was designated a Historically Black College and University by the Department of Education. With the HBCU designation, the college continued the specific HBCU purpose of promoting educational access and opportunity for all students in a culturally diverse community.

During this time talk of mergers between Alabama two-year colleges began. One of the considered mergers would be between Shelton State and Fredd State. Cephus worked with Victor Poole, Tom Umphrey and other college and community leaders to complete this merger. On June 24, 1990, Cephus retired as president of C.A. Fredd State Technical College.



THOMAS UMPHREY

PRESIDENT,
SHELTON STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1988-2000

Tom Umphrey arrived at Shelton State in 1979 from Birmingham as dean of special programs. Often viewed as a college people attended when they couldn't go anywhere else, Shelton's junior college division was housed in the old Gaylord's Discount Department Store building. Students referred to the college as "Gaylord Tech." Today Umphrey says changing the image of Shelton was one of his major challenges.

Leading a team recruiting effort, Umphrey spent much time in area high schools. He involved the college in many community activities. "Shelton State Days" were held at malls. Receptions, meetings and special events were part of campus life. Faculty and staff were encouraged to become involved in community organizations.

Rapid growth occurred in the 1980's. Umphrey realized the future of Shelton State was closely tied to technical training and the ability to meet industry needs. To do this, Shelton State needed additional resources. The Shelton State Foundation was born in 1984 and the Beatrice Morrison Training Center was built in 1987. The Alabama legislature designated Shelton State the "Alabama Junior College of the Fine Arts" in 1987.

In December 1988 Umphrey was named the new president. In 1989, the technical and academic areas of the college were joined. Reflecting the change, campus names were no longer "Technical and Junior College Divisions" but rather "Fifteenth Street and Skyland Campuses."

In 1990 plans began to build a new campus in south Tuscaloosa County. Umphrey led the building efforts, raising the funds necessary to build a college that would hold 10,000 students. Also during this time, Fredd State Technical College and Shelton State Community College merged, and Umphrey was named president.

In 1994 groundbreaking was held for the new campus. Part of the college moved in June 1996 and the rest of the college in August 1997. The Fine Arts wing was dedicated in 1998. Umphrey retired in 2000.



SANDRA RAY
ALABAMA STATE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
1995-PRESENT

Sandra Hall Ray was a young wife and mother in 1984 when her involvement with Shelton State began. Ray lived in Brookwood, Alabama, and was active in many community organizations. She became a founding member of the board of directors for the newly incorporated Shelton State Foundation, serving as president from 1985-1987.

The college's organized fund raising efforts began in 1985, and Ray was highly active in the first capital campaign that lasted until 1988. Ray's own life changed in the latter part of the 1980's. Following the death of her husband, Phillip Abston, in 1985, she moved from Brookwood to Tuscaloosa in 1988. She married Martin Ray and the couple combined their families. Ray also entered the business world during this time forming a real estate partnership with her father, Revis Hall, to open Hall-Ray Realty.

With the retirement of Victor Poole in 1994, Ray entered the political arena by running for a place on the Alabama State Board of Education. The daughter of educators, Ray had always been a staunch supporter of education in the state. With Poole's retirement, Ray saw an opportunity to become involved in education on a statewide basis. Today Ray is serving her third term on the board.

When Shelton State began construction of its new campus in 1994, Ray was there, offering guidance and support to Tom Umphrey, Rick Rogers and others. Ray also served on the Theatre Tuscaloosa board of directors and was actively involved in the fund raising and construction of the Bean Brown Theatre and Shelton's new Fine Arts Division.

Today, Ray is focused on the future as she stands with President Rick Rogers as Shelton State plans for the next 20 years. "There is so much growth potential at Shelton State," Ray says. "Alabama's two year colleges in the past have been like the middle child in a family, trying to find their own place. I think they have become more established and better defined, much more sure what their place should be."



RICK ROGERS
PRESIDENT,
SHELTON STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2000-PRESENT

When Tom Umphrey assumed the presidency in 1988, he realized he needed someone he could depend on in order to accomplish the massive goal of building a new campus that would house 10,000 students for Shelton State Community College. That person had to possess numerous characteristics including intelligence, loyalty and the willingness to work long hours. Umphrey believed the person he needed to help him build this campus was Rick Rogers. Rogers had worked closely with Umphrey over the years, as both men were involved in various community college activities. In 1989, Rogers joined the administrative staff of Shelton State Community College.

A native of Tuscaloosa County, Rogers had received his doctorate from the University of Alabama. In 1993 Rogers was named assistant to the president and given the huge responsibility, among other things, of overseeing the construction of the new Shelton State campus.

It was a daunting task assigned to Rogers by Umphrey. However, the young administrator carried it out so well that Rogers was named Shelton State's "Most Outstanding Administrator" in 1994, 1996, and 1997. The Alabama College System named Rogers "Administrator of the Year" in 1997 with the completion of the new campus.

With the dedication of the Martin Campus in October 1997 and the Fine Arts Wing in 1998, Umphrey had fulfilled his long-time dream of building a new campus for Shelton State. When Umphrey retired in August 2000, the Alabama State Board of Education named Rogers the new president of Shelton State Community College.

As Shelton State plans for the future, Rogers believes that Shelton State Community College can achieve his goal of becoming one of the top 25 community colleges in the United States. "We are already well on our way," Rogers says today.

The joy of Rogers' life are his children, Laura and Bryant.



WILLIAM LANGSTON
ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

The Alabama Fire College was created by ACT No. 373, Regular Section, 1955. However, a program of fire department training had been in existence since 1935 under the administration of the Trade and Industrial Education Department, Division of Vocational Education, State Department of Education.

It was not until 1963 that the Alabama legislature appropriated sufficient funds to build and equip a fire training center. On January 14, 1965, an agreement was drawn and reached between the State Department of Education, the City of Tuscaloosa, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama allocating the site for the training on its Northington Campus property. The construction was not started until 1965 and an additional \$158,000 was needed to complete the training center and the drill tower facilities.

In 1975, the Alabama legislature passed the Alabama Fire Fighters Personnel Standards and Education Act, which required formal training for every fire fighter within the first twelve months after joining a paid fire department. The office of this standards agency was set up in Montgomery, Alabama.

In April 1981, the State Board of Education placed the Alabama State Fire College with Shelton State Community College for administrative purposes.

On May 13, 1988, through ACT 88-663, the Alabama legislature merged the Alabama Fire Fighters Personnel Standards and Education Commission and the Alabama State Fire College. The Personnel Standards Commission moved its operation to Tuscaloosa. William Langston was the Executive Director of the Personnel Standards Commission and became the Executive Director of the combined agency.

The original Alabama Fire College facility consisted of the Fire College building and the drill field training center. The facility contained a 200-seat auditorium, a classroom, a bay for fire apparatus, a conference room, and office space.

In March 1998, the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission moved to their new facilities located adjacent to the Shelton State campus. These New facilities consist of three separate buildings allowing the Fire College to better accommodate the ever changing needs of the fire service of the state.

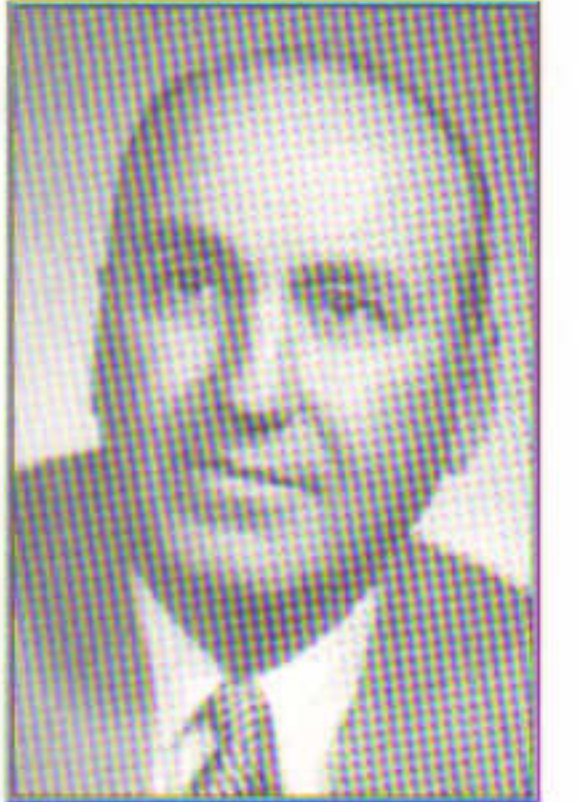
SPECIAL RECOGNITION



BRITT TURNER III
ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

C. Britt Turner III worked in the fire service arena in Tuscaloosa during the early years, 1974-1980. Turner went with the State Department of Education in 1970 and was moved to the Fire College in 1974 where he continued to work in fire service until his retirement in 1980. Turner now lives in Tuscaloosa.

AUBREY DOMINICK
TUSCALOOSA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



With the passage of the trade school legislation in 1947, the Chamber of Commerce recognized the need for vocational training in the West Alabama area and was involved in obtaining one of the new trade schools for Tuscaloosa.

The Chamber was actively involved in obtaining one of the initial trade schools for Tuscaloosa with Aubrey Dominick, A local attorney and community leader, chairing the Trade School Committee in 1947. After Tuscaloosa was chosen as the site of the third trade school, Dominick chaired another Chamber committee that worked with local officials to find a suitable location for the new school.



JOHNNIE AYCOCK
WEST ALABAMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Shelton State and the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce have continued to strengthen their relationship through the years. In 1983 Johnnie Aycock was named executive director of the Chamber. Under his leadership, the Chamber has taken a leading role in developing technical education. Today the Chamber and Shelton State work closely as partners in the community. The latest joint project is the establishment of the Workforce Development Center of West Alabama, which will open on the Shelton State campus in Spring 2003.

SHELTON STATE JUBILEE

FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH -

FOCUSING ON THE C. A. FREDD CAMPUS

- Feb. 4 **Everett McCorvey Performance**
Bean-Brown Theatre 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 7 **Black History Month Banquet with
Congressman Artur Davis**
C. A. Fredd Campus TBA
- Feb. 28 **Musical Tribute to Zelpha Wells**
C. A. Fredd Campus TBA

MARCH

CELEBRATING THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Artwork of current and former students on
exhibit during the month

- Mar. 6 **Poetry and Music Production**
Bean-Brown Theatre 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 15 **Alabama Stage & Screen Hall of Fame**
Bean-Brown Theatre

THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES

MARCH (continued)

- Mar 24 **Mark Childress, author of Crazy in Alabama**
Student Session
Martin Campus 11:00 a.m.
- Film Showing**
Martin Campus 1:30 p.m.
- Reception and Book Signing**
Martin Campus 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Session**
Martin Campus 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 29 **Master Ballet Class with Cornelius Carter**
Dance Studio 11:00 a.m.

APRIL

OUR FUTURE - OUR STUDENTS

- Apr. 3 **Wellness Center Health Fair**
Martin Campus 10:00 a.m.
- Apr. 23 **Jubilee Finale,
Clock Tower Dedication & Luncheon**
Martin Campus 11:30 a.m.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

January Jubilee Committee

Deborah Bonner
Billie Boteler
Janice Filer
Gladys Hill
June Hollingsworth
Michele Jarrell
Wendy Jones
Bonnie King
Lucy Kubiszyn, Jubilee Chair
Joyce Robinson
Brenda Ryan, Co-Chair
Alicia Taylor, Co-Chair

Tommy Hester

Husdon - Poole

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